What is Left of Us After Our Fighting Is Finished?

Ben Howard

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This Testimony is a Witness
Of the
Last Trump of God Message
Ministered
By the
Wife of the Lamb

WHAT IS LEFT OF US AFTER OUR FIGHTING IS FINISHED?

Today we are going to be reading in the Book of Philippians, Chapter 4, and this being our starting scripture is a very strange scripture compared to what the title of the message is. But we are going to work it all in as we go along. The title of the message is—*What is Left of Us after Our Fighting is Finished?* We were fighting as we walked on our journey, especially those of us who came through the Pentecostal Revival time period; we were fighting for the truth of the gospel, which brought us to the truth of this last trump of God message that is now sounding in the fullness of Christ in the Wife of the Lamb.

At first, God empowered us 'through the Holy Ghost' to overcome in all of our battles for truth. And the Holy Ghost was basically seen in the working of the first leg of the coming of Christ Jesus, which first came through the apostles starting on the Jewish Feast Day of Pentecost when Peter, James, John, and the others were preaching for that period of time. In the Book of Acts, Chapter 5, they proclaimed the Word so strongly that they made the Jewish religion so mad that the high priest had them whipped and beaten, saying unto them, "Did we not command you that you should not teach in this name (the name of Jesus)? And, behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God rather than men." And as soon as they turned them loose, they were found preaching again. And, of

course, they went about to try to stop them. So there was a lot of fighting for the truth of the gospel that they had for that time. They would not budge, they would not give in, and they just stood firm for truth. And the thing about it is, as far as we know, they came through without letting the fighting destroy them. But in our day, over the years I have seen many that became bitter because they have been fighting the battle for a long time, and that made their hearts become hard. They have fought so much for the letter of the Word that they cannot move on beyond that. So those are the things that we want to speak on today.

Notice our title again; *What is Left of Us After Our Fighting is Finished?* And we are not talking here about someone just coming to the Lord that has not fought the battles. When most folks first come to the Lord, they are tenderhearted and they rejoice to see the Lord moving. Back in the days when Paul was preaching, he taught the espoused virgin to be kind, tenderhearted, loving one another, yet Paul himself had to stand very firm and preach the gospel of grace without the works of the law. He stood for it, and he fought for it, but it did not destroy him. He still had that same mellow spirit within him. He talked about the love of God. He talked about the joy of the Lord. He was just a man that was dedicated to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. He did what he needed to do, and it did not destroy him doing it. And he did not get bitter even though he was not always treated with respect.

There were many preachers in the Pentecostal realm that I grew up with, and as I sat back, watched, and listened, I noticed there was a hardness to them after battling for truth for a long time. There was not very much mercy mixed with the grace of God in their preaching. And as they got

older and went forth, especially if they had a church, they fought to keep everything the way they wanted it, and it began to take an effect on them and they became very hard in their spirit.

A while back, I was in a business here in Dawsonville, and a man that I knew walked up and greeted me, saying, "Preacher, how are you doing today? You are looking good." And we talked for a few minutes. And then another man came over to me, who must have been a preacher, someone I did not know personally, but he came up and said, "You are not one of those preachers that believe there is going to be a rapture are you? I can prove to you right now, right here on the spot, that the Lord Jesus Christ does not come back until after the great tribulation is over with." And he began to speak to me rather roughly without me saying anything to him. The bitterness seemed like it was just spewing out of him. So my thought was, "This is the wrong spirit, and it is also the wrong place to debate scripture." So after telling the man to have a good day, I quickly finished my business and left the building without involving myself in conversation with him. Well, the fact is, I agree that the Lord Jesus Christ does not come until after the tribulation; but Christ Jesus shown in Revelation, Chapter 10, hid in the form of a Mighty Angel, has already come back, and we were married to the Lord Jesus Christ by a proxy marriage.

In times past, we had our battles, and it was for our good and for our growth; but it did not destroy us. So now there is shown in the earth today a body of people, the Wife of the Lamb, who is kind and tenderhearted; and we are dressed in fine linen, clean and white, and our fighting is over. We are not fighting anymore. Yes, we came through

the time of fighting and everything else that was ordained for us to come through, and we did not let bitterness build up in our hearts nor any other thing that would hinder. In other words, the fighting did not destroy us. Many have won the battle, but in winning the battle, it destroyed their joy and left them with bitterness, but not us, the Wife. Now let us pray before reading our scripture.

O' my precious Father, we come praising you and thanking you for this opportunity to stand here today and speak for the Lamb that was slain, who paid for our sins, and speak for the God of heaven through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christ Wife of the Lamb. Father, thank you for the anointing that teaches us, that unction from the Holy One, which is now in the fullness of Christ. And the fullness of Christ is what was needed for this moment of the time of the twinkling of an eye that we are living in to speak the Word in glorified flesh and bones. And this is what you have given us. And we thank you for it in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

In Philippians, Chapter 4, Paul talked about the love of God, he talked about the joy of the Lord, and he talked about rejoicing—"Rejoice always," he said. And that was a man that had to fight for the truth of the gospel that God gave him. He was whipped, beaten, and one time certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium persuaded the people to stone him, and afterwards they took him outside of the city and left him for dead. But as the disciples stood around him, he rose up and went into another city and kept right on preaching. But yet there was no bitterness in the man. He won the battle, and in winning the battle, it did not destroy him. Praise be to God! And now we the Wife have come through all our times of fighting, and here we are today full of joy. And when John saw us dressed in fine

linen, clean and white, which is our righteousness, he said, "Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His Wife has made Herself ready," and there is joy in the camp!

Some people think we are too joyful. But being full of joy is good. I have been to quite a few places around the world in preaching the gospel, and I remember in a certain country there was one brother who came to the meetings who wanted to stay right with my wife, Barbarajean, and I. There were certain groups that were fighting with other groups about various controversial doctrines of the letter of the Word of God. Well, my wife and I went over there rejoicing in the Lord, just praising Him as we delivered the living Word of God. Sometimes we had several services a day, and on one particular day, we were going back to the hotel at lunchtime to eat and freshen up before we went back for an evening service, and the brother asked, "Can I go with you all? Could I have lunch with you today? I just want to be around you. It seems like you and Barbarajean are in revival all the time." He said, "It is not like that here; we have to fight the battle." But in fighting their battle, they let it destroy them and their joy.

Yes, we have come through battles. Here stands someone that is eighty-three years old who started as a young man and came through the Pentecostal Revival where we had to fight our way through. But I came on through and kept rejoicing in the Lord, and kept praying, and I never let anything stop the joy of the Lord. And that is the way the Wife is; for we learned as we grew in grace and in the knowledge of God not to let anything take our joy. And, thank God, we have come through the period of time of Ephesians 4:13-16 where we have grown up into the stature

of the fullness of Christ. And we do not go around picking a fight, and if there is a fight going on, we have learned to avoid it, especially if someone asks us questions to try to get something that is controversial started. There are those that like to do that because they live on controversy. But the Wife avoids those controversial things, for they are not of value to us. We are rejoicing in the Lord! We are the Wife of the Lamb and we are happy, and we are not burdened down; and if something comes to try and burden us, we have the wisdom of the Lord not to take on those burdens.

Now, as promised earlier, let us read Philippians, Chapter 4, starting with Verse 1. It says, *"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved."* Paul spoke much about the joy of the Lord. And the joy of the Lord got greater and greater in his life. The song says, "It gets sweeter as the days go by—richer, fuller, deeper, sweeter!" Amen! And that is the way it is with us, the Wife of the Lamb, who is a group of people dressed in fine linen, clean and white, which is a righteousness that has never been seen in a group of people since the world was; for before the foundation of the world we were made part of the Godhead and have the very righteousness of God! So we do not have to fight about what we preach. We preach it and the Wife loves it. And those that it is not for, we cannot give it to them anyway. And I tell you, we cannot give spiritual things to this Gentile world who is following the antichrist spirit that is in their religious system; and they do not want this gospel nor the way we give it. It is as the Samaritan woman that came to *Jacob's* well because the *Gentile* well went dry. She had to come to Jacob's well to

get the water! And there is now a fountain open in Israel for sin and uncleanness, and there is joy in the camp! Praise God!

Now, I want you to notice in Philippians 4:1 here is a man that has been through many battles. But now his battles are over. He said in the Book of 2 Timothy 4:7-8, "I have finished my course. I have kept the faith. And there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." He was looking to receive this crown that *we* have, and praise God he has it now! So now *we* have already received our crown, and we are wearing it now! Praise God, we laid down our cross and put on our crown along with those departed saints that Christ Jesus brought back to this earth with Him. (1 Thessalonians 4:14)

So here is the thing about it; Paul fought a lot of battles by the anointing of the Holy Ghost (which was Christ Jesus in him for that time period) without becoming bitter over fighting for the truth that God had given him. And even Jesus Christ talked mighty strong to the religious Jews, saying, "You are of your father, the devil. The works of your father, you will do." But yet the Lord Jesus wept sometimes, and He prayed, and He rejoiced in the Lord God. He was destroying the works of the devil, but it was not destroying Him while He was doing it.

Some people try to destroy the works of the devil by using scripture, the letter of the Word, but it winds up destroying *them* because they get very bitter because of the lack of godly wisdom. But not the Wife; for we have the wisdom of God. A few years ago, I preached the message, *Getting Acquainted With a Woman Named Wisdom*, which became a chapter in our book, *Crowned With the Perfect Man's Revelation*, showing that the Wife of the Lamb has the

wisdom of God to walk on through this world without fighting with the world. We know that whatever the world is going to do, they are going to do it, and we are not going to change them with what we say. So we just love the Lord and praise Him and go on about our own business showing forth the joy of the Lord. And that is the greatest testimony we will ever have— letting the joy of the Lord flow through us.

So starting with Verse 1 again, Paul is saying, *"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for…"* Longed for—I want you to notice that. He wanted to see the brethren. He had been turned over to the Roman authorities and was on a ship bound for Rome, and he came to a certain place where the ship stopped, and lo and behold, there were some brethren there! For some of his dear brethren had heard that Paul was going to be on a certain ship that would come through and would be stopping at a certain place; so these brethren came a long distance to meet him. Paul had not had any fellowship in a long time (but he still had the joy of the Lord), and when he saw them, he began to thank God, and he took courage. In other words, he just got a renewing from Christ Jesus through his brethren, just as the Spirit is flowing from the throne of God through us, the Wife of the Lamb, as we are part of the Godhead. Amen.

"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown,…" Paul was telling them what was in his heart. He was not insincerely trying to look good in their sight; but he did want to make them feel good in the Spirit. He did not want to appear that he was just trying to win someone. No, he was speaking his heart. *"…so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved."* Do you see that one verse

there? It does not sound like a man that is bitter. It does not sound like a man that won the battle but in winning the battle he destroyed himself. No, not at all. He was still full of joy. He was still ready to go. And he was going with the joy of the Lord.

Verse 2, *"I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord. And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow* (That means they were working together.), *help those women…"* Watch, now, those other apostles would not have said that. That would have been a little heavy on them because they did not have the ministry that Paul had. But Paul had received *more* than just the baptism of the Holy Ghost like the other Jewish apostles received on the Jewish Feast Day of Pentecost, because *Christ Jesus* came to *him*, and he took that rib (a special part of the Word) from Christ Jesus and began the process of creating a Wife by espousing the virgin, which was at that time the 'spiritual body of Christ.' And now in the time that we are in, the Wife has been created glorified flesh and bones by this message of glorified flesh and bones that the Wife is preaching.

Notice, Paul told the believers, "Help those women." And that went totally contrary to the Jewish teaching. *"…help those women which laboured…"* This goes against the grain for many people, even those that we have been associated with in days gone by. *"…help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers,* (Watch what he says—) *whose names are in the book of life."* Oh, what comforting words! Well, Paul went forth, and there were several women that helped him. He told us about them in Romans, Chapter 16. They were not behind a pulpit giving out a sermon, but sometimes a

good testimony is as good as a good sermon. So as it was in that day, we see the same in this day, because the body of Christ, which is now the Wife of the Lamb, is still neither male nor female, neither bond nor free, and neither Jew nor Gentile, but is the creation of this new group of saints who is Christ the Wife. Praise be to God! And now gravitation is losing its hold on us. And we do not fuss about whether the Lord Jesus Christ comes back after the tribulation or not. Yes, it is true that the Lord Jesus Christ, the King, does come back after the tribulation is over; but Christ Jesus has already come, shown in Revelation, Chapter 10, and married us to the Lord Jesus Christ, and very soon we are leaving this earth to go up to meet Him dressed in fine linen, clean and white. And then we will come back with Him. And that is when He comes back to be King of kings and Lord of lords to take over this earth for the great millennium. (Revelation 19:11-16) And when He comes, *He* is doing the fighting, for He is dressed in a vesture dipped in blood. But we the Wife saints who are dressed in fine linen, clean and white, do not fight. Our fighting is over.

So here, Paul says, "Help those women." And I want you to get this part, "whose names are in the book of life." These folks whose names are in the book of life, see, they were the Word for that time period. Then in Verse 4 he goes on and says, *"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."* And that was in that day with the virgin. But now we are rejoicing because we are the Wife of the Lamb and our battles are over; they are now won. We laid down our cross, and we have put on our crown. Yes, we have come through battles. We have been hurt, and we may have hurt other people with the lack of knowledge that we had at the

time. But the thing is, we are married to the Lord Jesus Christ, and the battle is over. It is as an old song we use to sing says, "And when the battle is over, we shall wear a crown in the New Jerusalem." Well, the battle is over and we *are* wearing a crown.

So Paul told the virgin, *"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."* Notice, this was not a man that destroyed himself winning a battle. There are certain people that have fought in the spiritual battles and have come through them and are still all right. They made it through without becoming bitter. Then there are those that are so bitter that you can never get through that bitterness to get to the real person. If there is bitterness there, that root of bitterness can spring up and defile many. But that is not so with the Wife of the Lamb. We do not have any bitterness. Why? Because we are praising the Lord, giving glory and honor to Him, and we are speaking good things. We do not go around picking a fight, but we avoid it; for we do not have to fight anymore. Yes, we have had to fight our way; but now our battle is over and we are wearing a crown of glory. And winning the battle did not destroy us. See, because we have something extra now along with the Holy Ghost, something that was not previously available to us. For along with the Holy Ghost (which was the first leg of the coming of Christ Jesus), we have received the second leg of the coming of Christ Jesus, which together made up the fullness of His Spirit, which is shown in Revelation, Chapter 10. This is when He brought us the little book and we ate it up, and this made us the Wife of the Lamb, glorified flesh and bones.

Notice, through the working of the Holy Ghost, yes, there were hard battles that were fought over the years. And I

know ministers who in their old age, after going through many battles in preaching, were ready to fight you at the drop of a hat. And they have been in that so long that they think they are doing the will of God. They won the battle, but they destroyed that inner person, that tenderness, and that goodness, and that rejoicing and looking to God and praising Him. So it is not our job to get out here and straighten out the world or the religious world. What they do is none of our business. We have greater things to do. We are not even in their world. What they do out there in that world, we do not have anything to do with that, for we are married to the Lord Jesus Christ. We have on our crown; and we are rejoicing in the Lord. And now anyone that is predestinated to be part of the Wife of the Lamb, to walk in this message of glorified flesh and bones as this last trumpet of God is sounding, they become part of a people that are full of the joy of the Lord. We are not fighting battles. The battle has already been fought and won, and, praise God, we were not destroyed by winning the battle. We won without being destroyed ourselves! The battle has been won. The enemy has been destroyed that bothered us in that sense. It did not destroy us; it only made us more firm. It made us mature. And here we are today shouting the victory, dancing for joy, saying, "We are the Wife of the Lamb, and we are not ashamed of it." And we are saying, "We are dressed in fine linen, clean and white." And we have a righteousness that none is equal to, because we are part of the Godhead and have the very righteousness of God. And we are rejoicing about it and shouting about it!

Today there are preachers that preach about all the battles they have fought, but somehow they never get to the joy of victory, rejoicing over the victory. But we rejoice

over our victory, for we won the battle and did not get destroyed in winning the battle. We did not destroy ourselves in order to win the battle. Yes, we know many people that once started out with a tender heart; they started out loving the people. And I have seen preachers get behind the pulpit and cry and pray; and that is all right. But later on they would almost be ready to fight if you did not agree with everything they said. But not us, the Wife. We came through all of that. We heard it. We sat back and heard all these things. And we the Wife walked out and left everything, for everything just fell off that was not godly, that was not something that would fit in the Kingdom of God as the Wife of the Lamb. Therefore, we are rejoicing because that is one of the last things John said when he mentioned the Wife. And even John got a revelation of who the Wife was; for he said, "Let *us* rejoice! For not only is the Wife rejoicing, but I am going to rejoice too, because I see and know what is going on with Her!" Amen! Praise God! There are people today rejoicing who may not want this gospel of the Wife of the Lamb, but they are glad for *us*. Like one woman said to me some time back when she heard me preaching, "Ben, I am glad you are preaching what you are preaching, but I do not want to do it myself." See, that is the way some think. But not the Wife of the Lamb.

Now let us go to Verse 9. It says, *"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."* Here, Paul is telling about leadership—"Yes, we have had to fight battles. Yes, we had to stand for truth." Yes, Paul had to rebuke that man that was trying to turn one away from the faith; for when the anointing of God came upon him, he said, "Thou

child of the devil, will you not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a season." And immediately there fell on the man a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. We are not going to get into that story, but the point is, here he is at the end of the road, saying, "I have fought a good fight. I have kept the faith. My battles are won." Paul spoke victory! And I could reach back to the Book of Colossians and some of the other books that show basically the same victorious spirit, showing us that he did not let his battle for truth cause him to become a bitter person. And likewise, the battle did not destroy *us*. It made us what we are. Yes, it made us firm, but not hard, not hateful, not bitter, not wanting to pick a fight with someone, and not trying to prove ourselves right. We do not have to prove anything. We are right and we do not have to prove it. God knows it, and the Wife knows it, so whom do we have to prove it to? So we go on rejoicing with victory in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father, we thank you for your love, for your goodness, and for the great grace that you have put upon us. I pray that you will take these words and use them for your glory. And as we have come through these battles, Lord, we want to give you a special thanks; thank you Lord, for not letting us destroy ourselves in winning the battles, and thank you for helping us to not make winning the battles so important that it would destroy us when it came to a certain little doctrine or something. Lord, we thank you, and we praise you, and we love you as we say, "Amen! Amen! Amen!" in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Testimony of Barbarajean Howard: I would like to share what happened to me the other day since it goes along with what Ben preached today. I had no idea what was going to be preached, but the Lord knew. So I feel I should tell this. I had gone to the store, and right before I came out I began to think about my father, mother, and brother, who all passed on recently. They were all of the natural family that I had. As I drove home thinking on them, I began to cry. All three of them went very quickly with not many months in between each of their passing, and I had them buried one right after the other. It was such a shock to me at the way they went, so close together like that. And it has been very difficult for me to grasp the reality of it. They did not know the revelation of the gospel that we know, but they were not against us or anything like that; they just did not understand the revelation of this part of the Word of God. They all had a hard time in life, a lot of fighting went on and there was much bitterness. Anyway, here I was driving down the road, thinking about them and what all they had gone through in life, when suddenly, it seemed something took ahold of my mind and I saw all three of them, and it was just so real. There they were, smiling, and they were happy. There was no bitterness, no hardness, nor anything like that; it was all gone. They had nothing like that on them. I saw them so clear! It was so real! It is as if I saw them in a virgin stage. I do not mean like a virgin in the gospel or anything like that, but I just saw them like in a virgin stage before they came through life and picked up all the things through life, the cares, the troubles, all the fighting, bitterness and disappointments that they had picked up. I saw them before that, before that happened to them. And I praise the Lord for letting me see them like

that. I am so thankful He showed me that; for I saw them *before* they got as they were. I praise you, Lord, for it. Thank you, my Lord Jesus. I thank you for the Word that was preached today, *What is Left of Us After Our Fighting is Finished?* I praise you for it, Lord.

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